

Specification**Connecting Terminal****Technical Field**

[0001] The present invention relates to a connecting terminal which is locked within a housing of an electrical connector.

Technical Background

[0002] Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing a connecting terminal 1 having an electric wire 2 fixed thereto. A core conductor 4 of the electric wire 2 is clamped in a core conductor clamping portion 3 and a sheath 6 of the electric wire 2 is clamped in a sheath clamping portion 5.

Disclosure of the Invention**Problems to be Solved by the Invention**

[0003] In the known connecting terminal 1, after fixing the electric wire 2, the core conductor clamping portion 3 is coupled with a connecting portion 7 via a mere plate-like portion, and therefore a mechanical strength of the plate-like portion is small and if an unexpected force is applied to the connecting terminal, the connecting terminal might be bent or broken.

[0004] The present invention has for its object to provide a connecting terminal, in which the above mentioned problems can be removed and a portion between the connecting portion and the core conductor clamping portion can be protected from being damaged.

Means for Solving the Problems

[0005] According to the invention, a connecting terminal including a connecting portion, a U-shaped core conductor clamping portion and a U-shaped sheath clamping portion, which are arranged in this order viewed from a front side to a back side, characterized in that plate-like portions are provided on both sides of a portion of the connecting terminal between the connecting portion and the

core conductor clamping portion, and top portions of said plate-like portions are substantially linearly coupled with a top portion of the core conductor clamping portion via coupling portions.

Merits of the Invention

[0006] In the connecting terminal according to the present invention, since the core conductor clamping portion and the plate-like portions are coupled with each other by means of the coupling portions such that the top portion of the core conductor clamping portion and the top portions of the plate-like portions are coupled with each other substantially linearly, a root portion of the core conductor portion is reinforced and is hardly damaged.

[0007] In a preferable embodiment, the plate-like portions are utilized to engage the connecting terminal with a locking lance. Then, the connecting terminal can be effectively prevented from being moved forwardly in a temporally engaged condition.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0008] Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing an embodiment of the connecting terminal according to the invention.

Fig. 2 is an exploded view of the connecting terminal formed by punching a metal plate.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing a condition that an electric wire is connected to the connecting terminal.

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view illustrating a condition in which a rear holder is coupled with a housing in a temporally engaged position.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing a locking lance.

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view depicting the temporally engaged condition in which the connecting terminal is inserted into the housing.

Fig. 7 is a cross sectional view showing a completely

engaged condition of the connecting terminal within the housing.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view illustrating a known connecting terminal.

Explanation of Reference Numerals

[0009]

- 11 connecting terminal
- 12 connecting portion
- 13 wire clamping portion
- 13a core conductor clamping portion
- 13a', 14' top portion
- 13b sheath clamping portion
- 14 locking portion
- 15 coupling portion
- 21 electric wire
- 22 core conductor
- 23 sheath
- 31 housing
- 32 rear holder
- 33 terminal accommodating hole
- 35 locking lance
- 35a claw portion
- 35b locking recess

Best Mode of the Invention

[0010] Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a connecting terminal 11 according to the invention after shaping and Fig. 2 is an exploded view illustrating the connecting terminal 11 being obtained by punching an electrically conductive metal plate before shaping. At a front end of the connecting terminal 11 there is provided a connecting portion 12 of a rectangular tube shape, said connecting portion 12 receiving a cooperating tang-like terminal.

At a rear end of the connecting terminal 11 there is provided a U-shaped wire clamping portion 13 for connecting an electric wire. The wire clamping portion 13 includes a core conductor clamping portion 13a situating near the connecting portion 12 and a sheath clamping portion 13b situating near the rear end. At a front end of the core conductor clamping portion 13a near the connecting portion 12, there are provided plate-like locking strips 14 which extend in a longitudinal direction. Top edges 13a' of the core conductor clamping portion 13a and top edges 14' of the locking strips 14 are linearly coupled with each other by means of coupling portions 15.

[0011] Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing a condition in which an electric wire 21 is connected to the connecting terminal 11. A core conductor 22 is clamped in the core conductor clamping portion 13a by bending side walls of the core conductor clamping portion inwardly. A sheath 23 of the electric wire 21 is clamped in the sheath clamping portion 13b. The core conductor clamping portion 13a is bent to surround the core conductor 22, but the locking strips 14 still stand upright. The coupling portions 15 are gradually bent from the core conductor clamping portion 13a. In this manner, the portion of the connecting terminal 11 between the connecting portion 12 and the core conductor clamping portion 13a is reinforced by the locking strips 14 and coupling portions 15.

[0012] Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view illustrating a temporally engaged condition in which a rear holder 32 is inserted halfway into a housing 31 from a rear end. The rear holder 32 is locked within the housing 31 at the temporally engaged position by means of a temporally engaging mechanism not shown. Within the housing 31 there are formed holes 33 for accommodating the connecting terminals 11 in two columns each including a plurality of

accommodating holes 33. At a front end of each of the connecting terminal accommodating holes 33, there is formed an opening 34 through which a cooperating male type connecting terminal is inserted.

[0013] At each connecting terminal accommodating hole 33 of the rear holder 32, there is formed a resilient locking lance 35 having a locking claw 35a which is engaged with a rear edge of the connecting portion 12 of the connecting terminal 11. Furthermore, as illustrated in Fig. 5, on both side walls of the locking lance 35 there are formed locking recesses 35b with which the locking strips 14 of the connecting terminal 11 are engaged to prevent further advance of the connecting terminal 11.

[0014] In the temporally engaged condition, when the connecting terminal 11 is inserted into the rear holder 32 from the rear side, the connecting terminal 11 pushes the locking lance 35 upward as depicted in an upper column in Fig. 6. After the connecting terminal 11 has passed through the locking lance 35, the locking lance 35 is returned into the initial position and the claw portion 35a of the locking lance 35 is engaged with the rear end of the connecting portion 12 of the connecting terminal 11. At the same time, the locking strips 14 of the connecting terminal 11 are engaged with the locking recesses 35b of the locking lance 35.

[0015] Due to the engagement of the claw portion 35a of the locking lance 35 with the connecting portion 12, the backward movement of the connecting terminal 11 is prevented. Furthermore, due to the engagement of the locking strips 14 of the connecting terminal 11 with the locking recesses 35b, the forward movement of the connecting terminal 11 is prevented.

[0016] In this manner, all connecting terminals 11 are set under the condition in which the forward movement and backward

movement of the connecting terminals 11 are restricted by the locking lances 35, a conduction test is performed. After that, the rear holder 32 is pushed into the completely engaged position shown in Fig. 7, the connecting terminals 11 are inserted into given positions within the housing 31.

[0017] In the completely engaged condition, the backward movement of the connecting terminals 11 is prevented by the claw portions 35a of the locking lances 35 and the forward movement of the connecting terminals 11 is prevented by the front walls in which the openings 34 are formed. It should be noted that the forward movement of the connecting terminals 11 is also prevented by the locking recesses 35b of the locking lances 35.

[0018] Furthermore, the engagement of the locking strips 14 with the locking recesses 35b prevents undesired rolling of the connecting terminals 11, and thus the locking strips 14 also serve as stabilizers.

[0019] As explained above, the locking strips 14 are provided in front of the core conductor clamping portion 13a and the core conductor clamping portion 13a is coupled with the locking strips 14 by means of the coupling portions 15 such that the top portions 13a' of the core conductor clamping portion 13a and the top portions 14' of the locking strips 14 are coupled with each other substantially linearly, and therefore the front portion of the core conductor clamping portion 13a is reinforced and can be effectively prevented from being bent and broken.